Brochure Design compliments of Hatteras Realty

TIPS & HINTS For Driving On The Beach

OBSERVE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS:

- Vehicle must have a current State / Country road registration and a valid license plate.
- The operator must have a current driver's license.
- Check with local tackle shops concerning fishing license requirements and size and creel limits for various species of fish.

AVOID DAMAGING VEGETATION:

- Enter and leave beach ONLY at designated numbered ramps.
- Drive only on that portion of the beach which lies between the foot of the dunes and the ocean.
- Do NOT drive on or between the dunes except on marked routes.
- Drive only on marked ORV Routes west of NC Highway 12 (Sound Side).

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY:

- Proceed with due caution and consideration for other beach users. Please be especially cautious of children and pets who may dart into traffic. Watch for fishing lines.
- Drive slowly and be alert for people lying, standing or walking on the beach.
- Use ONLY a Four Wheel Drive (4WD) vehicle to drive on the beach.
- Lower the pressure on all tires. The softer the sand the lower the pressure needed. Generally drive with 20-25 lbs. pressure in the tires. When you return to paved roads, inflate the tires to normal as soon as possible.
- When possible, drive on the portion of the beach located just below the high tide mark. Avoid getting too close to the water. Before driving through any water, determine the depth and firmness of the underlying surface.
- Drive at a slow and steady speed. If the tires start to spin, back up in your tire tracks for several car lengths. Accelerate slowly as you move forward. Additional tire deflation may be necessary.
- Salt water spray is highly corrosive. It is recommended that you wash the vehicle after each outing, both sheet metal and undercarriage.
- Park Rangers may assist you, but they are not permitted to pull or tow other vehicles. Commercial towing services are available.
- Do not litter. Please deposit all trash in trash containers wherever available or by bagging and removing it from the beach. Please avoid littering the beach with dead bait, carcasses or other dead fish of any kind.
- Avoid overcrowding any one area and displacing others from their previously chosen spots.
- Leave room for other vehicles to pass safely when parked.
- Refill holes and remove any boards or other aids after being stuck, leaving the beach passable for others.
- Observe common courtesy on the beach and the rules of the road when meeting or passing other vehicles at constricted areas.
- Remember at all times that the unspoiled beaches of all seashore areas afford the pleasure to everyone. It is incumbent upon each of us to preserve this natural heritage.

Brochure Proudly Produced By:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
www.NPS.gov/caha

NC BEACH BUGGY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 940
Manteo, NC 27954
www.NCBBA.org

OBPA
Outer Banks Preservation Association
"Preserve & Protect... Not Prohibit"
Buxton, NC
www.OBPA.org

CAPE HATTERAS ANGLERS CLUB
FOUNDED 1957
WWW.CHAC.ORG

National Park Regulations You Need To Know & Observe

- **Observe Posted Closures.** If violations of protected species closures result in disturbance or harassment of wildlife, or the vandalization of fencing, nests or plants, the closure is mandated to be expanded 50m for the first violation, 100m for the second violation and 500m for the third. Violators are subjected to a fine of up to $5,000 and/or imprisonment up to 6 months.
- **Night Driving:** May 1 to September 15 night driving is prohibited 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. September 16 to November 15 night driving is allowed with a permit only - contact the park or check the website for permit information. November 16 to April 30 night driving is allowed.
- **Pets Must Be On A 6-Feet Leash At All Times.** Pets are prohibited within any bird closure. They can disturb nesting adults, kill chicks or crush eggs.
- **Beach Fires** may be ignited and maintained seaward of the ocean dune below the high tide mark, but in no case less than 100 feet from a vegetated area. All fires must be no greater then 3 feet in diameter. The use of non-wood products or wood products containing non-wood items (glass, plastics, cans) for fire construction is prohibited. No beach fires are allowed in posted bird or turtle nest protection areas. All beach fires are prohibited from 12 a.m. (midnight) to 6 a.m.
- **Remove ANY Trash Or Litter From The Beach,** including bait, fish parts or dead fish. Trash attracts predators.
- **Feeding Wildlife (Including Gulls) Is Prohibited.** Human food is unhealthy for wildlife and may create a harmful dependence on humans for survival. Feeding may artificially inflate animal populations, create aggressive behavior and force other species out of habitat.
- **Kite Flying And Frisbee Tossing Are Prohibited Within Or Above Any Bird Closure.** Kites and frisbees can scare birds off their nests, leaving eggs and chicks exposed to predators and deadly heat.
- **Fireworks And Metal Detectors Are Not Permitted.**
- **Jet Skis And Other Motorized Personal Watercraft Are Not Allowed.**
- **Return All Fish Not Being Kept Back To The Water Alive,** including skates and sharks.
- **Camp ONLY In Designated Campgrounds,** not on the beaches.
- **Do Not Dump Wastewater Or Graywater On The Beach.** Please use park dump stations for this purpose.

Portions of the beach may be temporarily closed to ORVs due to mandated protection of wildlife and plant species, such as protected birds and sea turtles. Closure boundaries may shrink or expand given the specific behavior or requirements of protected wildlife. In addition, certain areas of beach may be closed due to seasonal pedestrian use or if the beach is too narrow for safe driving. Alternative routes of bypasses may be established if possible. For current information, visit one of the seashore visitor centers or www.nps.gov/caha.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Road • Manteo, NC 27954

Phone: 252.473.2111 • www.NPS.GOV/CAHA

Off Road Vehicle Use

Traffic Laws Apply To Beach Driving

- **Drive Only On Marked ORV Routes And Comply With Posted Restrictions.** Do not drive on or between the dunes unless marked as a ORV route. Driving or parking on vegetation is prohibited.
- **Observe Posted Speed Limits.** The speed limit on park beaches is 15 mph May 15 - September 15, unless otherwise posted and 25 mph September 16 - May 14, unless otherwise posted.
- **Any Law Applicable To Vehicle Use** on a paved road in the State of North Carolina also applies to ORV use.
- A current driver's license, valid vehicle registration, insurance and license plate are required for all vehicles – including ATVs.
- Reckless Driving (ie: cutting circles or defacing the beach) is prohibited.
- Avoid driving or parking on the wrack line. The wrack line is a line of stranded natural debris on the beach left by a previous high tide that can be an important food source for birds.
- Pedestrians ALWAYS have the right-of-way.
- Open containers of any type of alcoholic beverage are prohibited in vehicles. Public consumption of spirituous liquors or fortified wines is prohibited.
- The use of seatbelts is required.
- Do not hang out of moving vehicles or sit on the tailgate or roof. Those in truck beds must be seated on the floor with the tailgate closed. Children in truck beds must be accompanied by an adult.

Check the weather forecast and tide tables before starting your trip. ASK A PARK RANGER ABOUT CURRENT BEACH CONDITIONS / CLOSURES.

Equipment Recommended To Carry:

- A Small Shovel
- Tow Rope
  (at least 18 ft. long with a min. load strength of 5,000 lbs.)
- Good, Quality Tire Pressure Gauge
- Jack and Jack Support
- First Aid Kit
- Spare Tire
- Litter Bags
- Fire Extinguisher
- Flashlight

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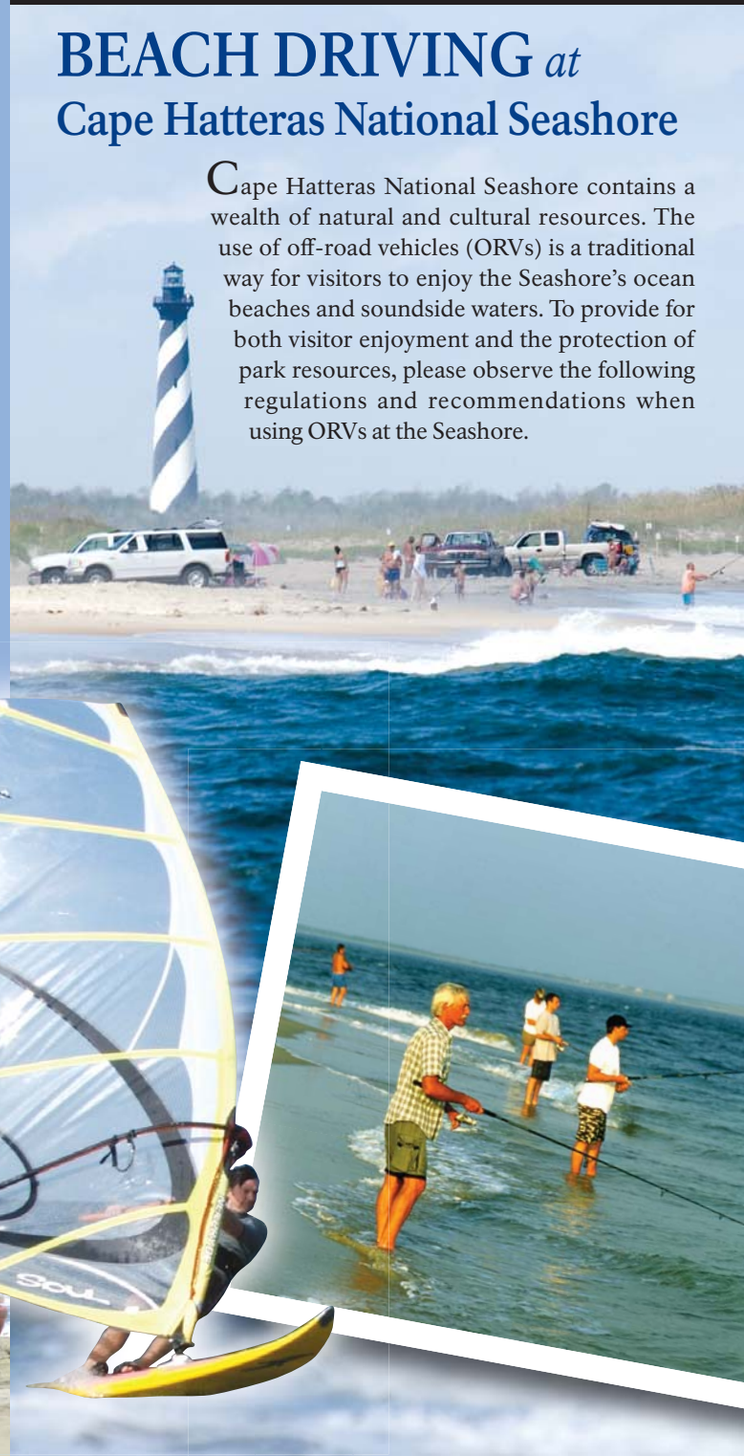
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

BEACH DRIVING *at* Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Cape Hatteras National Seashore contains a wealth of natural and cultural resources. The use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) is a traditional way for visitors to enjoy the Seashore's ocean beaches and soundside waters. To provide for both visitor enjoyment and the protection of park resources, please observe the following regulations and recommendations when using ORVs at the Seashore.